

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 111445Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINS, KS, VT

SUBJECT: THE CASE OF BISHOP CHI

REF: SEOUL 4456, SEOUL 4403

1. VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR KOREA INFORMED US THAT VATICAN HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM PRO NUNCIO DOSSENA JULY 11 TO EFFECT HE NOW FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT BISHOP CHI WILL NOT BE FORMALLY CHARGED--VATICAN UNDERSTANDS THIS NOT YET DONE--AND BE SENT BACK TO HIS DIOCESE WHERE HE WILL BE PLACED UNDER A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST. VATICAN'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BISHOP CHI DID INDEED PROVIDE \$3,000, BUT THAT HE GAVE IT TO A KOREAN CATHOLIC POET WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION AND NOT DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF. THIS POET, WHO WAS ARRESTED AND IS NOW ON TRIAL, REVEALED FACT OF CHI'S GIFT UNDER INTERROGATION. SOURCE SAID LAST WEEK IN VATICAN BISHOP CHI WAS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED FROM RETURNING TO KOREA AT THIS TIME, OBVIOUSLY TO NO AVAIL. VATICAN NOW AWAITING FURTHER WORD FROM DOSSENA. IDEA OF TRANSFERRING CHI FROM WONJU TO OTHER KOREAN DIOCESE SEEMS UNLIKELY SINCE THERE PRESENTLY NO VANCANCIES.

2. OTHER VATICAN SOURCE, WHO ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT WORK WITH KOREA IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH CHI, SAID CHI'S HOPE WAS TO HAVE HIS ARREST BECOME "CAUSE CELEBRE" AND RECEIVE HEAVY MEDIA ATTENTION.
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TION BOTH IN KOREA AND ABROAD, THEREBY HOPING TO BRING PRESSURE

ON GOK FOR REFORMS. SOURCE THOUGHT THAT PRESENCE IN SEOUL OF
KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE WAS POSITIVE ASPECT OF PROBLEM
AS AMBASSADOR PROBABLY WILL ENCOURAGE HIS GOVERNMENT TO PLAY DOWN
DIFFERENCES WITH BISHOP CHI. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 JUL 1974
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Disposition Authority: martinml
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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